

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method comprising:

using an electronic application program that cooperates with at least one configured multi-purpose electronic processor to compose an electronic version of a document;

providing the document onto a substrate, the provided substrate being steganographically encoded with plural-bit auxiliary data, the steganographically encoded plural-bit auxiliary data is substantially imperceptible to casual human inspection, but is detectable through normal ambient visible light imaging of the document without a need to use non-visible light lenses or filters, and processing of image data thereby produced, in which the plural-bit auxiliary data is encoded such that decoding of the encoded plural-bit auxiliary data relies on a Fourier transform that produces data in which scale and rotation can be ignored, and in which the plural-bit data comprises or links to information which limits the number of times the electronic version of the document may be accessed; and

storing in electronic or magnetic memory at least some of the plural-bit auxiliary data in association with data identifying a location at which the electronic version of the document is stored.

2. (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the providing includes steganographically encoding the provided substrate with said plural-bit auxiliary data.

3. (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said storing includes storing in a registry database maintained by an operating system of a computer system.

4. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said storing is performed by the application program.

5. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said storing is performed by a computer system operating system.

6. (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said storing is performed by a printer driver employed in printing the document onto a substrate.

7. (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the steganographic encoding of the provided substrate comprises subtle variations in the luminance of the document.

8. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the steganographic encoding takes the form of tiny elements of ink or toner distributed in a pattern so light as to be essentially un-noticeable.

9. canceled.

10. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 [[9]] wherein the Fourier transform comprises a Fourier-Mellin transform.

11. (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the plural-bits of auxiliary data are steganographically encoded with digital watermarking.

12. (new): A programmed computing device storing instructions in memory, said instructions are executable by said programmed computing device to perform the acts of claim 1.

13. (new): A computer readable media comprising instructions stored thereon to cause at least one multi-purpose electronic processor to perform the acts of claim 1.